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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God of the universe, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We ask Your blessing upon our Nation. Bless the work of the Members of the people's House. May they toil diligently to bring about solutions to the pressing issues of these times.

Bless all men and women across our country, especially those who work in service to others: police, firefighters, health care providers, teachers, those who work in local, State and national government, and those men and women serving in our Armed Forces.

And bless those who give the ultimate sacrifice of their lives in service, from Santa Cruz, California, to Bangor, Maine, and comfort those who mourn their loss. May we all be inspired by the heroes who serve their neighbors.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. OLSON led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle

BETTER TO DIE AS FREE MEN— THE ALAMO DEFENDERS

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in a beat up old Spanish mission 177 years ago today, the sun rose in the mist for the last time on a small band of soldiers.

The fiery group of 187 Texas volunteers stood defiant against Dictator Santa Anna and his invading Mexican Army of several thousand on this, the 13-day siege of the Alamo.

They came from many States and many foreign countries. There were 11 Tejanos—Texans of Spanish descent. Their names were Jim Bowie, Jim Bonham, David Crockett, and William Barret Travis. They were all killed on March 6, 1836, fighting for liberty over tyranny.

Col. Travis was correct when he said that "victory would be more costly for Santa Anna than defeat." Mexican losses were so huge that General Sam Houston had time to rally a Texas army and defeat the dictator, Santa Anna, on the plains of San Jacinto, on April 21, 1836.

Texas became a free and independent nation, a republic.

The guns and bugles are silent at the Alamo, but all freedom-loving people should thank the Good Lord that in history there are those who are willing to face overwhelming odds and die for freedom rather than to live under oppression and tyranny.

And that's just the way it is.

SEQUESTRATION

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I am extremely disappointed that the sequestration has taken effect because Republicans refused to work with Democrats on a balanced plan to prevent it.

The automatic, arbitrary, and irrational cuts it has imposed could have, and I think will have, serious, negative effects. It could erode our military readiness and weaken our national security, and it could reverse the gains we've made in our economic recovery and see reductions in critical programs that help the poor and most vulnerable in our society.

Sequestration is not a solution. Only a balanced approach can achieve the savings we need to get our fiscal house in order and end the uncertainty that is keeping our businesses from creating the jobs we need.

It is not too late to act. This Republican-controlled Congress may not have been able to avert the sequester, but it can limit its impact if both sides work together. And I still believe that if Republicans are willing to compromise, we can achieve the big, balanced solution to deficits the American people expect from us.

Today's vote is on whether you think sequester is rational. The next vote will be on keeping government open.

THE FALL OF THE ALAMO AND COLONEL TRAVIS' LAST PLEA FOR HELP

(Mr. OLSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, 177 years ago on this day, the Alamo fell. Every Texan fighting for liberty was killed.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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